

Job training services for dropout prevention
(SB 371 by Barrientos/Glossbrenner)

DIGEST: SB 371 would have required service providers under the Texas Job-Training Partnership Act to make it a priority to serve student dropouts or students at-risk of dropping out who are 12 or 13 years of age. The bill would have directed the use of private funds not designated for another purpose to be used to provide 12- and 13-year-olds with services. The bill would have directed organizations under contract with the Texas Department of Commerce as providers of dropout services to attempt to obtain private funds to serve student dropouts or students at-risk of dropping out who are 12 or 13 years of age.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON

FOR VETO: The bill would restrict private industry councils' use of local funds by directing where the funds should be spent. The councils are not serving these students because federal law prohibits the expenditure of Job Training Partnership Act funds on students under age 14. Private industry councils have been encouraged to allocate funds for young student dropouts or potential dropouts, as some currently do, but it would be inappropriate for the state to mandate how best to address local communities' needs by legislation such as this.

RESPONSE: A spokesman for Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, the author of SB 371, expressed disappointment with the veto and said it will affect service providers who are too timid to understand that local funds can be spent on young students at-risk of dropping out or who have dropped out. The spokesman said the bill would have placed no restrictions on the local use of funds.

NOTES: SB 371 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a Daily Floor Report.